



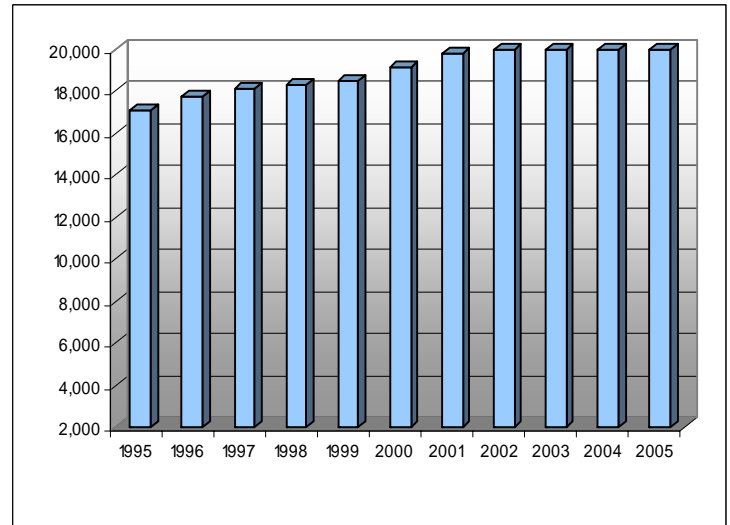
BLAINE COUNTY PROFILE

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June 2006

Population

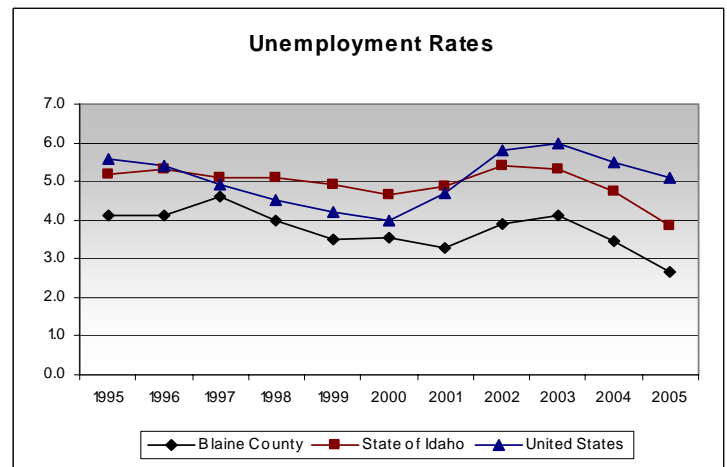
Blaine County has experienced strong and steady growth over the last decade. Population has increased from 17,108 in 1995 to 21,166 in 2005. This is a ten-year increase of 24 percent, making Blaine County the fastest growing county in South Central Idaho for the last decade. Beautiful mountain scenery and virtually unlimited recreational opportunities make Blaine County a destination location. The world famous Sun Valley Ski Resort attracts thousands of visitors each year. The outlook for Blaine County is for continued growth, but at a somewhat slower rate than it experienced in the last decade due to some congestion in traffic and lack of affordable housing.



Labor Force & Employment

Blaine County has made remarkable progress in increasing its employment and lowering unemployment significantly. In 1995, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent; the rate peaked during the past decade at 4.6 percent in 1997. In 2005 the average unemployment rate was 2.7 percent. This rate was one of the lowest in the state of Idaho. The seasonality of work in Blaine County has smoothed out due to more spring and summer recreation opportunities and the numerous construction projects to improve roads. Most jobs in Blaine County are in the *Construction* and *Services* sectors. There is a worker shortage in the *Services* sector due to lack of affordable housing.

Although average wages in Blaine County are approximately 30 percent higher than those in the rest of South Central Idaho, they are not adequate for most workers

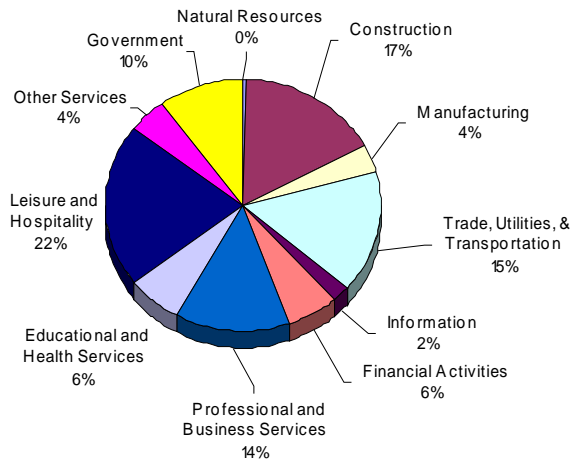


to live in the area and many commute from other counties. There is a great deal of traffic congestion between Ketchum and Hailey, and there are numerous construction projects to widen and improve the roads. Many workers are employed in higher paying construction jobs. As a result, Blaine County's economy continues to be strong and unemployment has been drastically reduced. The outlook for Blaine County continues to be bright and it is anticipated that strong employment numbers will continue in the foreseeable future.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	14,560	15,022
Total Employment	14,204	14,668
Unemployed	356	354
Blaine County % Unemployed	2.4	2.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	10,211	10,622	10,684	10,931	11,117	11,864	12,433	12,928	12,754	13,463	14,341
Unemployment	423	436	495	436	393	422	408	505	527	467	384
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.9	4.1	3.5	2.7
Employment	9,788	10,186	10,189	10,495	10,724	11,442	12,025	12,422	12,226	12,996	13,957

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Wages & Income

Wages in Blaine County tend to be higher than those in South Central Idaho, and even statewide. The reason for the higher wages is that the cost of living is significantly higher than the rest of the state. Blaine County and its natural beauty attract numerous affluent residents. The per capita income for Blaine County in 2004 was \$45,635 making it the highest in Idaho. In fact, it exceeds the United States per capita income for 2004 by \$14,163 and the Idaho per capita income by \$18,758.

Major Employers

St. Luke's Medical Center-Ketchum
Blaine County
Power Engineers, Inc.
Sun Valley Co.
U.S. Forest Service
Blaine County School District #61
Atkinson's Market
Albertsons, Inc.

Occupational Wages*

Starting Wage

Elementary Teachers	\$17.11
Secondary Teachers	\$17.15
Social Workers	\$20.32
Registered Nurses	\$19.76
Legal Secretaries	\$11.03
Bookkeepers	\$11.47
Cashiers	\$7.28
Motel Housekeeping	\$7.13
Nannies	\$10.12
Butlers	\$13.45
Chefs	\$13.33
Sous Chefs	\$12.96
Landscapers	\$10.54
Construction Labor	\$13.46
Electricians	\$19.59
Maintenance Mechanics	\$15.93

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	8,865	\$20,909	12,350	\$30,518	12,876	\$31,747
Agriculture	121	\$17,432	119	\$19,107	124	\$21,600
Mining	46	\$24,267	37	\$31,152	37	\$32,579
Construction	1,297	\$24,303	2,088	\$34,508	2,219	\$36,215
Manufacturing	236	\$25,408	450	\$42,870	459	\$46,397
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	1,538	\$20,814	1,928	\$26,698	2,014	\$28,615
Information	147	\$22,775	231	\$29,799	262	\$33,608
Financial Activities	522	\$27,270	742	\$38,800	772	\$43,372
Professional and Business Services	891	\$30,385	1,606	\$38,867	1,763	\$41,393
Educational and Health Services	298	\$27,951	754	\$33,301	771	\$32,959
Leisure and Hospitality	2,390	\$11,948	2,742	\$20,584	2,755	\$18,562
Other Services	283	\$17,496	430	\$26,792	438	\$26,822
Government	1,098	\$11,948	1,224	\$20,584	1,261	\$18,562

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Blaine County	\$31,209	\$33,091	\$35,174	\$37,703	\$39,658	\$42,947	\$43,722	\$42,720	\$43,288	\$45,635
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office located at the address below:
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